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Letter dated 6 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 October 1995, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter, and its annex, could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 5 October 1995 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 25 September 1995 addressed to you by Mr. Nicos Agathocleous, the Greek Cypriot Representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/50/477-S/1995/822).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations were rejected in toto in my communication addressed to you on 11 September 1995 (A/49/964-S/1995/788), and to stress that the present ones are no more credible or valid than those previously made. In putting out such allegations, the Greek Cypriot administration knows only too well that the areas referred to as the northern coast of the island and the "northern and north-western flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia" are in fact areas which are under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Once again, without going into the details of the Greek Cypriot charges, which do not merit a detailed reply, I wish to reiterate that the flights within the airspace of Northern Cyprus are with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration has no right of say whatsoever.

The reason behind the Greek Cypriot side's persistent barrage of allegations regarding this or similar other subjects is clearly to cover up its intensive militarization campaign in the South, as part of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece. It is noteworthy that, in the context of the said scheme, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece have recently carried out joint military exercises in Southern Cyprus code-named "Nikiforos 95", in which the Greek air force and navy also took part. During these exercises, a barrage of slogans reflecting the Greek-Greek Cypriot intentions to "attack and capture" Northern Cyprus also poured out from the South, leadership and public alike. As is known, bolstered by its newly purchased offensive weapons and the military support of Greece, the Greek Cypriot leadership has now gone so far as declaring that war is an option for the Greek Cypriot side in Cyprus.

Furthermore, through such allegations, the Greek Cypriot side is aiming to create a smokescreen for its evasion of the negotiating table. The Greek Cypriot side continues to reject the implementation of the confidence-building measures and the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Clerides, stubbornly rejects President Denktaş's repeated calls for a face-to-face dialogue. Rather than being supportive of your mission of good offices, the Greek Cypriot administration is increasingly distancing itself from the negotiating process by shifting the focus to European Union membership, which it has made a precondition for the talks, with a view to altering the established parameters of an overall settlement.

I am confident that the international community will not fail to notice the new efforts of the Greek Cypriot side aimed at escalating the conflict and its policy of rejecting direct talks, and will do what it can to persuade the other side to abandon this counterproductive approach.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus